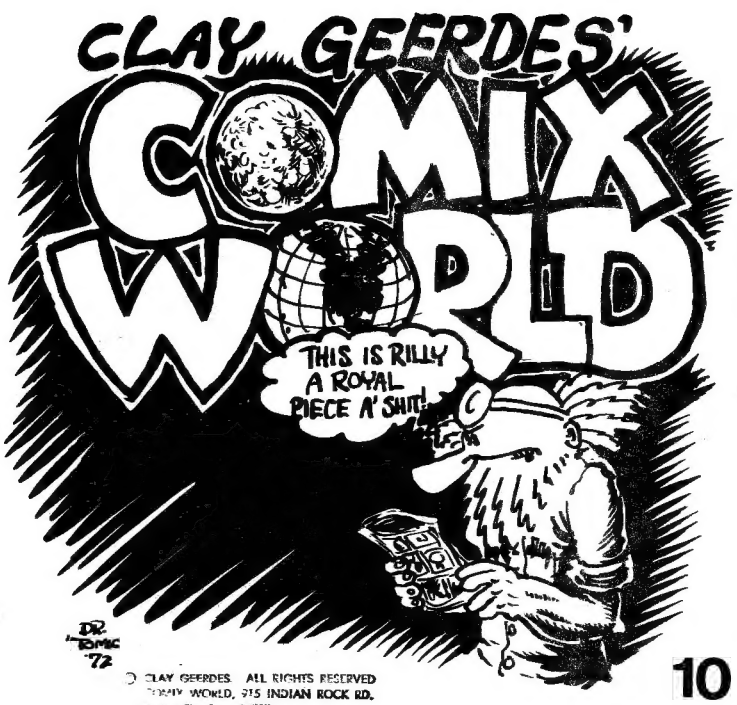
CLAY GEERDES'
COMIX WORLD
THIS IS RILLY A ROYAL PIECE A' SHIT!
DR. TOMIC '72
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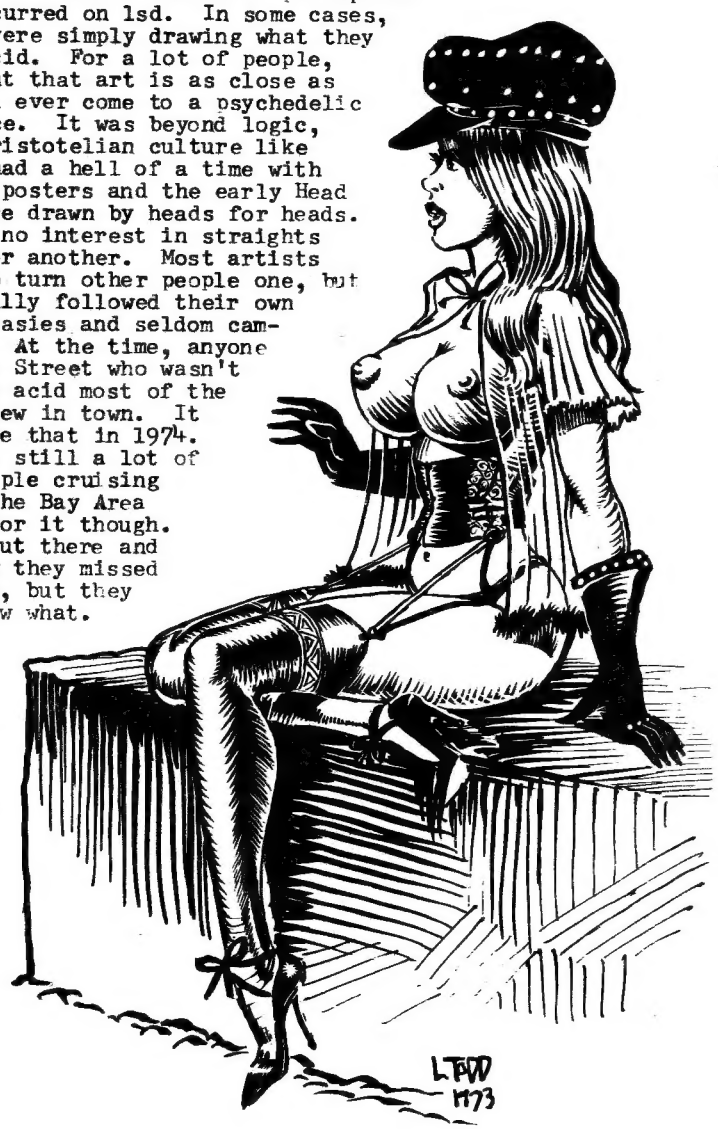
COMIX WORLD, 975 INDIAN ROCK RD.
BERKELEY, CA. 94707.

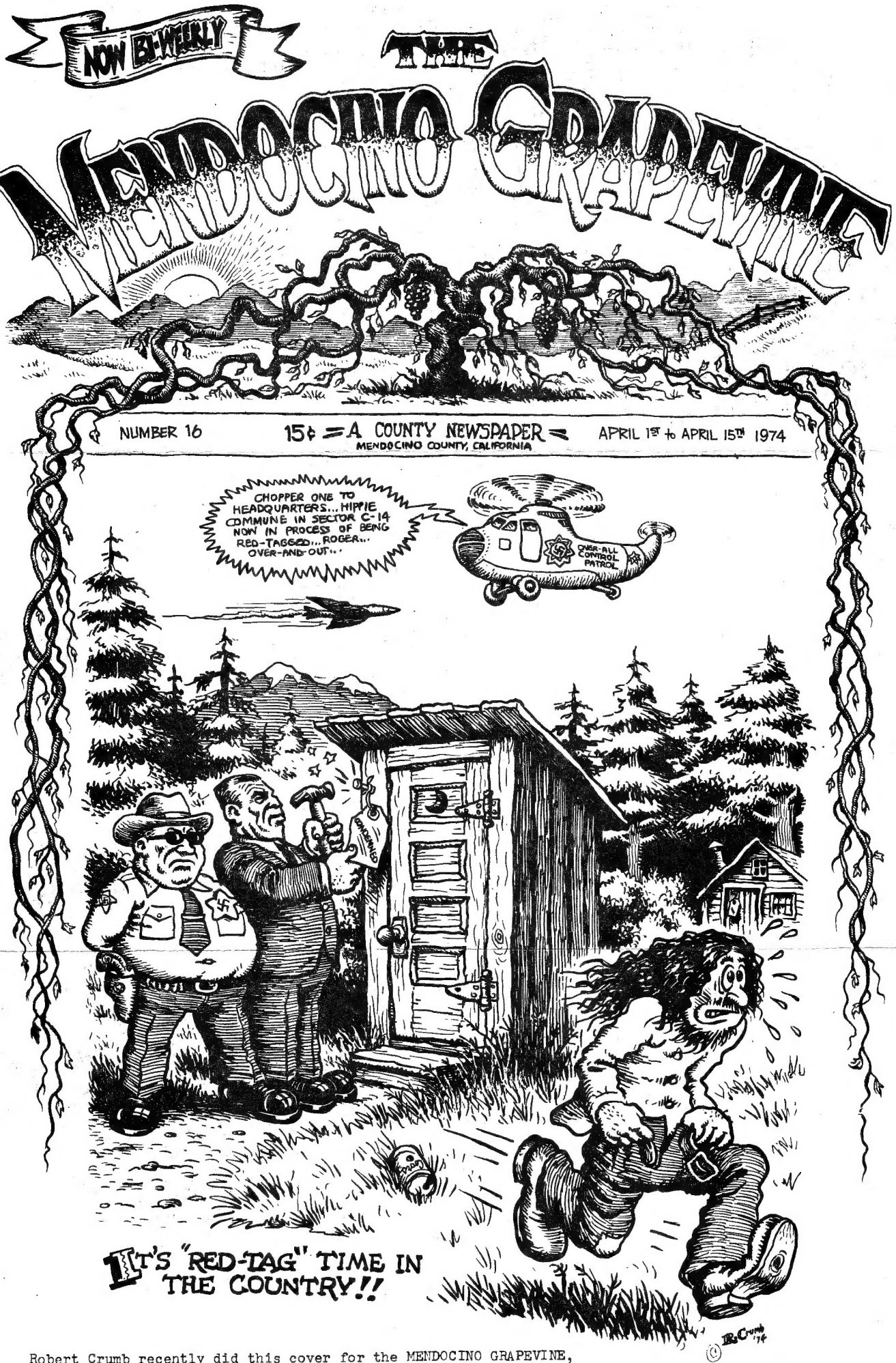
The first issue of Bob Sidebottom's CALIFORNIA COMICS hit the stores first week of April. It features John Williams' "The Experience Shop," Scott Shaw's turgid confession, "I was a Funnybook Junkie," (You are, too, reader, or you wouldn't be reading this scoop sheet) and some other nice stories. Problem is, it's hard to identify who done what in the book. Makes it hard to give the artists credit. Who did that "Lord Winston" material? Lot of Barks influence there (not to mention Capp and Young). Fine cover by E. Watson. Third BARBARIAN is out. Art by JA. Williams, W. A. Meugniot Hale Han & some unidentified artists. Again, I do not know why they are not identified & I personally feel their names should appear on the inside front cover as is customary. "There" is a good revenge story. It is an old theme, but well drawn and interesting. Both books are 50¢. 73 East San Fernando, San Jose, Ca 95113.

A new educational comic is out from The Amazing Life Games Company, P. O. Box 506 Sausalito, Ca 94965. It's HELP. Not like Harvey K's HELP! though. I like it, but I think there is too much print. Kids don't like a lot of print. More pix. It's $1. . . . Dale Coovert (36 Prospect Av, Dayton, Ohio, 45415) is coming out with just the thing for you Griffophiles, "The Official Griffy Gazette." Bill did a nice parody of Trudeau in the PHOENIX, "Goonesbury." The PHOENIX is John Bryan's paper and he carries a lot of art by underground artists so you collecters might want to subscribe. 79 Beaver Street San Francisco, Ca. . . . In New York, Lopez Productions is doing HARPOON & wants to hear from ug artists. 21 West 26th St. NY 10010. 1st ish set for mid-June. Denis Kitchen has been hired to be editor of COMIX International. P. O. Box 7, Princeton, Wis. 54968. 414-295-3972... Last-Gasp will publish the third PSYCHOTIC ADVENTURES. Art by Dallas and Todd.

SLOW DEATH 6 out. More EC nostalgia and what's wrong with that? . . . Trina, Lee Marrs, and David Sheridan were on KFRC Easter Sunday discussing comix. A couple comments: Trina: "I find I psychoanalyze myself right after drawing a comic." Lee: "I don't see any of us setting ourselves up as preachers of any kind of way of life." . . . Dave is working on a new comic, "3711." On the cover of the Berkeley Con Comic, "Plaster casts of Trina's navel" were on sale with S. Clay Wilson's old beer cans. . . . Mitchell Brothers, local erotic filmmakers, won another obscenity trial last week & threw a trippy party at Great American Music Hall for their lawyers, Kennedy & Kline. The streakers? Jerry Rubin and cartoonist Roger May. The Shadow never fails!. . . A guy drops acid & turns into a chicken? Yep. In "Set your Chickens Free," Ben Van Meter's new one, with script by Gilbert Shelton. This one premiered at the S. F. Art Institute on April Fool's Day.. . . on the way, PORK, STOMP, and ZAM! Not to mention GIRL FIGHT and TALES OF SEX AND DEATH. A sleeper, WEIRD TRIPS, from Krupp. All the prices are going up. . . . Me, too. Subscribe now. 12 for $2.50.

We're still in the sixties in this one. On Haight Street the art had begun to effect people. The letters drawn by Wes Wilson made you move in close to look, but you never had to read them, because if you were in the right frame of mind, you just stood there and absorbed what they had to say. Everyone knew what was going on at the Fillmore and Avalon and no one went there to hear superstars because there weren't any then. No one knew anything about the new bands like Jefferson Airplane and Grateful Dead and Sopwith Camel and Great Society. The music and the light show and the strobes and the Warhol movies and the free apples and lollipops and balloons and day-glo paint were all there and hundreds of people just melted into that anonymity at night to become part of a larger organism. It was all motion. A big happening, but not the media focal-point it became later with the dance-concert/rock concert-cum-festival money trip (Read the history of the whole period in Emmett Grogan's RINGOLEVIO (Avon Books)). The art was. It didn't have to say, to be what Roger Brand once referred to as "messagy." The posters were free. Getting them was a ritual. After a dance, everyone ganged up on the coat-room people at the old Fillmore to get a copy of the poster for the following weekend's bill. The art might be that of Wes Wilson, Kelly-Mouse Studios, Rick Griffin, Lee Conklin, or Jaxon (Art Director for the Family Dog during those years). It was always saturated with luscious color and bizarre imagery, and to really understand the impact of that psychedelic art, you have to consider the schlock of the fifties which preceded it. Dig it, the bands of the fifties were still in uniforms; the new sixties rock bands were like nothing that had ever happened before in that no member looked like any other member of a given band. The group image of the fifties ended with the Kingston Trio and Brothers Four and Limeliters, and the sixties were typified by individualism in thought, dress, and visual style. The Beatles started out in uniforms and ended up as far apart as the four corners of the Renaissance world. So the art. Men like Griffin, Moscoso, Conklin were iconographers and many tried to recreate in their metamorphic imagery the altered states of perception which occurred on lsd. In some cases, artists were simply drawing what they saw on acid. For a lot of people, looking at that art is as close as they will ever come to a psychedelic experience. It was beyond logic, and an Aristotelian culture like America had a hell of a time with it. The posters and the early Head comix were drawn by heads for heads. They had no interest in straights one way or another. Most artists wanted to turn other people one, but they usually followed their own free fantasies and seldom campaigned. At the time, anyone on Haight Street who wasn't stoned on acid most of the day was new in town. It isn't like that in 1974. There are still a lot of young people cruising through the Bay Area looking for it though. They're out there and they know they missed something, but they don't know what.

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THE
MENDOCINO GRAPEVINE
NUMBER 16
15¢ = A COUNTY NEWSPAPER =
MENDOCINO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA
APRIL 1ST to APRIL 15TH 1974
CHOPPER ONE TO HEADQUARTERS... HIPPIE COMMUNE IN SECTOR C-14 NOW IN PROCESS OF BEING RED-TAGGED... ROGER... OVER-AND-OUT...
OVER-ALL CONTROL PATROL
CONDEMNED
IT'S "RED-TAG" TIME IN THE COUNTRY!!
R. Crumb '74

Robert Crumb recently did this cover for the MENDOCINO GRAPEVINE, a small county paper. You can get the issue for $.35 and a subscription for $3 a year. 1484 So. Main St., Willits, Ca. 95490.